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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, BE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION GUANTANAMO CIA FLIGHTS;BRUSSELS

I. (GUANTANAMO) GUANTANAMO

1. ALAIN LALLEMAND IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LE SOIR (3/8) (CIRC. 99,300) EDITORIALIZES: "BACK FROM GUANTANAMO, ANNE-MARIE LIZIN STATED THAT THE CELLS THERE WERE BIGGER THAN IN BELGIAN PRISONS. THE SAME DAY, THE BRITISH MOAZZAM BEGG, WHO WAS DETAINED IN GUANTANAMO, RELEASED HIS BOOK ON THE LIFE IN 'GITMO': YES, HE WAS BEATEN, BUT NOT IN GUANTANAMO. THE BEATINGS TOOK PLACE IN BAGRAM ONE DOES NOT NEED TO BE VERY SMART TO REALIZE THAT GUANTANAMO HAS BECOME A KING OF PR SHOWCASE AND THAT ABUSES ARE HENCEFORTH TAKING PLACE ELSEWHERE. IS IT IN BAGRAM? NOT ANYMORE. LE SOIR LAST SUMMER EXPLAINED THAT, IN AFGHANISTAN, TORTURE HAS BEEN USED FOR TWO YEARS IN THE BASES OF CITIES LIKE KANDAHAR AND GHARDEZ

"IS IT IN ABU GHRAIB? WE HAVE KNOWN FOR OVER TWO YEARS THAT TORTURE BEGAN IN REMOTE SITES LIKE CAMP BUCCA NEAR UM QASR. WE HAVE SEEN OURSELVES MOBILE INTERROGATION TENTS. AND THE SCANDAL OF THE CIA FLIGHTS THESE EXTRAORDINARY RENDITIONS THAT APPARENTLY HAD NOTHING EXTRAORDINARY SHOULD HAVE CONVINCED US THAT WE SHOULD NOT TRY TO ACCUSE A PARTICULAR LOCATION BUT RATHER THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE.

"AND THAT IS WHEN GUANTANAMO BACKFIRES. HOW ABOUT US? DIDN'T ONE OF THE EXPERTS WHO ACCOMPANIED ANNE-MARIE LIZIN UNDERLINE THAT, ALTHOUGH THOSE PRISONS WERE BEING

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CRITICIZED, ALL EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES TRAVELED TO GUANTANAMO TO COLLECT INFORMATION? IS IT FOR THE SAME REASON OF REAL POLITIK THAT WE ARE RELUCTANT TO INVESTIGATE INTO POSSIBLE CIA FLIGHTS IN BELGIUM?"

2. FOREIGN EDITOR PAUL DE BRUYN IN CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRAT GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN

(3/8) (CIRC.117,000) COMMENTS: "BEFORE THE CAMP IN GUANTANAMO WAS OPENED THE WHOLE WORLD RALLIED BEHIND THE E

AMERICANS IN THEIR WAR ON TERROR. ALMOST ALL GOVERNMENTS CONSIDERED THE OVERTHROW OF THE TALIBAN REGIME A JUSTIFIED OPERATION AFTER THE 9/11 ATTACKS. GUANTANAMO CHANGED THAT MOOD. ALL OF A SUDDEN SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. WAS NOT THAT SELF-EVIDENT ANYMORE. THE FACT THAT PEOPLE EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE TERROR SUSPECTS ARE DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL OR INDICTMENT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY FUELED THE HOSTILE CLIMATE AGAINST THE WAR IN IRAQ.

"THE IMPACT ON THE MUSLIM WORLD IS EVEN MORE SERIOUS. GUANTANAMO AND THE ABUSE OF IRAQI PRISONERS IN ABU GHRAIB HAVE FUELED THE ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS. THEY ADD TO THE HATRED THAT MOTIVATE EVEN MORE MUSLIMS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JIHAD AGAINST THE WEST. AL WESTERN EXPERTS AGREE: FOR TERRORIST GROUPS THERE IS NO BETTER INSTRUMENT FOR RECRUITING PEOPLE THAN IMAGES FROM THE PRISONS. THEREFORE, THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION IS THAT THE CAMP SHOULD BE CLOSED IMMEDIATELY AND THAT THE PRISONERS MUST BE RELEASED OR TAKEN TO COURT SO THAT IT IS CLEAR WHAT T

THE ACCUSATIONS ARE. FIVE UN EXPERTS ALSO URGED FOR THAT IN THEIR REPORT LAST MONTH. HOWEVER, WASHINGTON WIPED THE REPORT FROM THE TABLE. THE CLOSURE OF GUANTANAMO IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEXT U.S. ADMINISTRATION ENTERS OFFICE THE CAMP WILL REMAIN OPEN. THE FACT THAT THE WORLD IS NOT BECOMING A SAFER PLACE IN THE MEANTIME DOES NOT PLAY A ROLE FOR THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION."

## II. (CIA FLIGHTS) CIA FLIGHTS

FOREIGN AFFAIRS WRITER MARC VAN DE WEYER IN CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRAT HET BELANG VAN LIMBURG (3/8) (CIRC.100,000) EDITORIALIZES; "IN THE RUN UP TO THE WAR IN IRAQ, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT SHOWED EVERYTHING EXCEPT LOYALTY TO WASHINGTON. IS THAT GOVERNMENT NOW TRYING TO REPAIR THAT INDEPENDENT BEHAVIOR WITH AS MUCH PASSIVENESS AND NAIVETI AS POSSIBLE IN THE DOSSIER OF THE CIA FLIGHTS? LAST MONDAY SENATE PRESIDENT ANN-MARIE LIZIN ASTONISHED PEOPLE WITH HER CONCLUSION THAT

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GUANTANAMO PRISON IS THE KIND OF EXEMPLARY INSTITUTION OF WHICH BELGIAN DETAINEES CAN ONLY DREAM. TODAY IT APPEARS THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT KEPT THE DOSSIER ON THE CIA FLIGHTS ON THE BOTTOM OF A DRAWER. IF WE DON'T WATCH OUT PRESIDENT BUSH WILL BEGIN TO CONSIDER US AS NICE PEOPLE."

III. MEDIA REACTION PREPARED BY GASTON DE WINTER (DUTCH) AND PIERRE MANDERLIER (FRENCH). TEL. 32-2-5082413.KOROLOGOS

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